



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: October 10, 2011 REPORT NO:
ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
SUBJECT: Abandoned Hazardous Waste Collection 90-Day Pilot Program
REFERENCE: None

REQUESTED ACTION

This is an informational item only. No action is required by the Committee or the City Council.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Accept the Report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City currently uses the Fire-Rescue Department Hazardous Incident Response Team (HIRT) and the local engine company to respond to and mitigate routine hazardous waste that has been abandoned in the public right-of-way or on public property. Once the hazardous waste is collected it is transported to a secured site where it can be stored for up to 90 days prior to removal by the City's hazardous waste disposal contractor.

Firefighters staffing the engine and truck at Fire Station 44 in Mira Mesa are used to cross-staff the HIRT response unit. A response to collect abandoned hazardous waste places Engine 44 or Truck 44 out-of-service. The use of emergency response units for this non-emergency purpose reduces their availability for extended periods of time and negatively impacts emergency response coverage.

90-DAY PILOT PROGRAM

To mitigate this out-of-service risk, a pilot program is being initiated to use the City's existing hazardous waste disposal contractor, Ocean Blue Environmental, for routine hazardous waste collection in lieu of using emergency response units.

A majority of notifications to the Fire-Rescue Department that hazardous waste is present in the public right of way originate from Environmental Services Division (ESD) and Park & Recreation City field staff. As part of the pilot program, a new reporting protocol will be provided to these departments to enable their staffs to provide sufficient information to the Fire Communications Center (FCC) to assist the HIRT Captain in determining whether the incident is a routine response that can be handled by Ocean

Blue Environmental or is a more complex incident that must be handled by the local engine company and HIRT crews.

Fire-Rescue has informally notified Local 145 of this proposal in order to initiate meet and confer discussions, which must be completed prior to implementation. Given initial discussions with Local 145, it is anticipated that the pilot program will begin on November 1, 2011.

This program will be continuously evaluated for effectiveness, quality control and time efficiency. A comprehensive review of program results will be provided at the conclusion of the 90-day period. If found to be successful in reducing unnecessary emergency resource responses while concurrently safely and efficiently collecting the abandoned hazardous waste, a recommendation will be made to fund the program for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2012.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS

To fund the additional work that would be required of this contractor, the City's existing purchase order would be increased by \$15,000 for the duration of the 90-day pilot program. This additional expenditure would be absorbed in the existing Fire-Rescue Department budget.

RECOMMENDATION

None.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL and/or COMMITTEE ACTIONS

N/A

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS

N/A

KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND PROJECTED IMPACTS

Community and Citizens


Javier Mainar, Fire Chief